

PRESS RELEASE

HBKU launches comprehensive Master of Public Health Program targeted at meeting the health challenges in Qatar and the region

Doha, January 11, 2015 – Hamad bin Khalifa University (HBKU), a member of Qatar Foundation, is pleased to announce the launch of its Master of Public Health (MPH) program, the inaugural academic offering of its College of Public Health.

Dr. Khaled Ben Letaief, Provost of HBKU, officially launched the program at an event held on Monday, January 11th, 2016, at the Marwan Club within Education City.

HBKU's newest postgraduate program will use the university's innovative approach to multidisciplinary education to help create Qatar's future leaders in the important field of public health, equipping its graduates with the targeted skills needed to promote health within societies, prevent ill health, and stop the spread of disease. Classes for the first cohort of students will start in fall 2016 with applications now being accepted.

The comprehensive postgraduate degree will focus on the five core elements of public health: epidemiology, environmental health, biostatistics, health policy and management, and social sciences in public health. As part of the program, students will be given the opportunity to intern within local and international organizations, including hospitals and non-government organizations, where public health is a priority.

Speaking at the launch event, Dr. Letaief said: "We are extremely pleased to officially launch an exciting new program that once again emphasizes Hamad bin Khalifa University's dedication to enhancing the higher education capabilities of Qatar and our commitment to build a home for world-class academic training and research in Qatar.

"Many of HBKU's multidisciplinary programs place an emphasis on exploring the most pressing challenges facing society, and encourage students to conduct research that will have positive real-world impact. This new Master of Public Health program will play a vital role in training individuals to become highly accomplished leaders in their field."

The MPH is designed to equip students with the analytical and strategic planning tools needed to understand the ways in which societal, cultural, psychological, economic, and political processes affect health, illness, and adequate health care delivery. Graduates will be fortified with the knowledge and skills needed to work effectively at the national or international level in the fields of health care, health policy and public health.

Dr. Walid Alali, coordinator of the MPH program within HBKU's College of Public Health, noted: "The program is structured to provide participants with a profound understanding of the multi-layered nature

of public health challenges in the 21st century, with local community outreach a requisite component of the program. Students will be tasked with translating what they learn into concrete methods to build, or improve, the public health programs of neighborhoods, community organizations, or the government in Qatar.”

He continued: “As we recognize that career and leadership development support is essential, MPH students will also be given to access to internship opportunities and culminating projects with a number of organizations working in the field locally and globally.”

Students interested in pursuing a post graduate education in public health often come from a diverse range of academic fields. In addition to the health professions of medicine, nursing, dentistry, pharmacy, and optometry, the MPH program may attract students of the social sciences, engineering, biological sciences, environmental sciences, education, and journalism.

For more information or to apply, please visit: <http://www.hbku.edu.qa/MPH>.

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About Hamad bin Khalifa University

Hamad bin Khalifa University (HBKU), a member of Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development, is an emerging research university building upon unique collaborations with local and international partners. Located in Education City, HBKU seeks to provide unparalleled opportunities for scholarship, teaching, discovery, and learning for all of its students through an array of interdisciplinary programs.

HBKU’s partners are Virginia Commonwealth University in Qatar, Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar, Texas A&M University at Qatar, Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar, Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar, Northwestern University in Qatar, HEC Paris in Qatar, and UCL Qatar.